

IN THE CLAIMS

1-42. (cancelled)

43. (new) A network system, comprising

a first information processing apparatus having a user interface for receiving input from a user and for providing output to the user, the first information processing apparatus being capable of being removably loaded with a portable recording medium, the recording medium having a program stored thereon; and

a second information processing apparatus including a database, said second information processing apparatus capable of being connected to the first information processing apparatus via a network,

wherein the second information processing apparatus is operable to receive identification information over the network from the first information processing apparatus and to verify the received identification information based on data stored in the database, such that when the identification information is verified, the second information processing apparatus is operable to request input of a password via the first information processing apparatus and, in response to determining that the password is valid, to permit the first information processing apparatus to execute the program.

44. (new) A network system as claimed in claim 43, wherein the identification information includes a user ID.

45. (new) A network system as claimed in claim 43, wherein the identification information includes a device ID.

46. (new) A network system as claimed in claim 45, wherein the device ID is unique to the first information processing apparatus.

47. (new) A method of remotely authorizing execution of a program stored on a portable recording medium, comprising:

loading a removable portable recording medium into a first information processing apparatus, the recording medium having a program stored thereon; and

receiving identification information at a second information processing apparatus from the first information processing apparatus via a network;

verifying the identification information based on data stored in a database at the second information processing apparatus;

when the identification information is verified, requesting, via the second information processing apparatus, a password to be input at the first information processing apparatus; and

when the password is determined to be valid, permitting the first information processing apparatus to execute the program.

48. (new) A method as claimed in claim 47, wherein the identification information includes a user ID.

49. (new) A method as claimed in claim 47, wherein the identification information includes a device ID.

50. (new) A method as claimed in claim 49, wherein the device ID is unique to the first information processing apparatus.

51. (new) A computer-readable storage medium having instructions stored thereon, the instructions being executable by a computer to perform a method of remotely permitting execution of a program stored on a recording medium, the method comprising:

loading a removable portable recording medium into a first information processing apparatus, the recording medium having a program stored thereon; and

receiving identification information at a second information processing apparatus from the first information processing apparatus via a network;

verifying the identification information based on data stored in a database at the second information processing apparatus;

when the identification information is verified, requesting, via the second information processing apparatus, a password to be input at the first information processing apparatus; and

when the password is determined valid, permitting the first information processing apparatus to execute the program.

52. (new) A second information processing apparatus capable of being connected through a network to a first information processing apparatus, the second information processing apparatus comprising a database and being operable to receive identification information over the network from the first information processing apparatus and to verify the received identification information based on data stored in the database, such that when the identification information is verified, the second information processing apparatus is operable to request input of a password via the first information processing apparatus and, in response to determining that the password is valid, to permit the first information processing apparatus to execute a program stored on a portable recording medium loaded in the first information processing apparatus.